

Cellar for Root Vegetables – Potatoes, Carrots, Beets – Cool & Moist

Materials

32 – 2x4x8

- 18 - 2x4x8 for long sides of the wooden forms
- 2 – 2x4x8 for long sides of the top plate
- 9 – 2x4x8 cut (36 – 1'9" boards for short sides of the wooden forms)
- 1 – 2x4x8 cut (4 – 1'9" boards for short sides of the top plate)
- 2 – 2x4x8 cut (6 – 31 1/2" corner vertical boards)

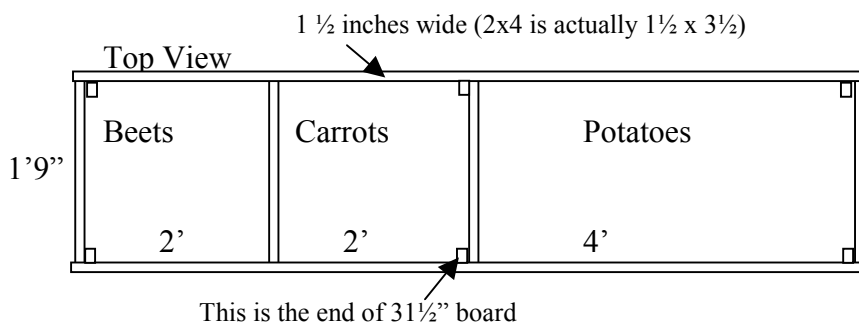
1 Sheet 5/8" plywood – Cut in half so it is 2 feet by 8 feet (You're only going to use one 2' x 8' sheet)

1 Sheet Rigid Styrofoam insulation 1 1/2 -2 inches in thickness

6 Bales of straw with a tarp or leaves in garbage bags

Instructions

1. Dig a hole 3' x 9' that is 33" deep.
2. Cut ten 2x4x8 into 1'9" increments (40 – 1'9" boards)
3. Make nine wooden forms according to diagram. The overall dimension of the box is 2' by 8'.



4. Stack the nine wooden forms on top of each other in the hole.
5. Nail a 31 1/2" 2x4 in each corner and the middle to hold the nine forms together according to diagram.
6. To make the top plate, start with the long sides. Set the 2x4x8 boards flush with the inside edge. Then fill in the short ends with the 1'9" boards. (The short inside boards will hang over an inch on each side.)
Note: a top plate is not necessary. It just makes a flatter surface.
7. Cut three pieces of Styrofoam - one to fit in each box. The Styrofoam sits on the vegetables not on top of the wood.
8. Place the 2' x 8' sheet of plywood on top of the box.
9. There is no wood on the bottom of the pit just dirt.
10. Fill the dirt back in around the outside edges of the box.
11. Place straw bales and then tarp OR bags of leaves on top for extra insulation and water protection.
Change out each year.

Note: You can fill the pit with vegetables all the way to the top. Leave room for the Styrofoam to sit under the top plate.

The reason the beets and carrots are in smaller boxes is because we eat a lot more potatoes. Adjust to your pit to your family's eating habits. You don't have to make a pit this big if you can't eat that much during one winter. You get the idea!